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The Amy and Abbie Brigade

Going after the CIA

As the riot-equipped troopers cordoned off the rear of the administration building with their night sticks and German shepherds at the ready, the 50 or so students inside took instructions on such practicalities as raising bail and wearing handcuffs from no less an expert than Abbie Hoffman. When the police entered, the protesters offered no resistance and were dragged out to be loaded into buses. Among the first to go was Hoffman, who celebrated his 42nd career arrest by shouting, "Back to the future. It's 1968 out there." But the former '60s radical was not the only famous name to get busted at the anti-CIA sit-in at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst last week. Throwing herself down to block one of the buses was none other than Amy Carter, who, chalking up her second arrest this year, has become a symbol of political activism on campus. "Auschwitz, Amherst—we're only following orders," chanted Carter before she and 58 others were carried away.

Former President Jimmy Carter's daughter, a junior at Brown University, was last arrested eight months ago during an antiapartheid protest at an IBM office in Providence, R.I. But as more and more corporations withdraw from South Africa, Carter and other student activists are turning their attention to a different issue: on-campus recruitment by the CIA. Last month 125 riot-clad police in Boulder had to use Mace and clubs to disperse more than 300 anti-CIA protesters at the University of Colorado. At the University of Minnesota, police again used Mace on 40 protesters who started smashing windows at the school's administration building. The UMass arrests were preceded by an anti-CIA rally attended by 500.

'Ancient art': Campus recruiting by the CIA was once done surreptitiously, through blind ads placed in college newspapers and an extensive old-boy network that spread its web through Ivy League clubs and secret societies. In the 1960s recruiting became more open, but the CIA was eventually run off campus by Vietnam War protesters. With the age of Reagan, the recruiters returned and



Student activist: Carter after arrest

pitched the agency as just another career opportunity—a riskier business than banking or law, perhaps, but an exciting way to visit far-off lands. "The Clandestine Service ... seeks to change adversaries into friends or neutrals through covert operations by political, psychological or paramilitary means," reads the CIA's recruiting brochure. "It is an ancient art that is expanded and modernized each day ... a highly individual, ever-changing, dynamic, exciting way of life." This fall the agency will visit 200 campuses and interview 10,000 students. Close to a thousand will be hired, mostly for the Clandestine Service—a division that until recently the CIA refused to acknowledge even existed.

Most students across the country seem to believe that the CIA—like General Motors or Xerox—has a right to interview appli-

cants on campus. "This is a question of free speech and my right to make a choice," says Mike Wysocki of UMass. "The CIA is a company. If they can block the CIA, who is to say they might not try to stop IBM from coming on campus?" But a growing number of students, pointing to the agency's reported involvement in secret wars in Nicaragua, Angola and Afghanistan, say the CIA has violated international law and should be kept off campus.

The pro- and anti-CIA factions often clash. At last month's University of Minnesota demonstration, anti-CIA protesters had not only the police to contend with, but also pro-CIA students hurling insults, eggs and yogurt. Outside the UMass building last week, the two sides threatened each other. One group chanted "No way, CIA" and "U.S.A., CIA out of Nicaragua," while another group waved posters reading "CIA—the American way. Beat it, liberals" and shouted "Rambo, Rambo, he's our man." As the crowd grew to 300, campus police had to intervene to keep the two factions separated.

Spy potential: Despite the protests, most schools produce more applicants than the CIA recruiters have time to see. These are winnowed by a barrage of evaluations and interviews: first, the CIA administers an eight-hour aptitude test that includes standard analytical questions as well as a number tailored to spot one's spy potential (e.g., "Suppose you have to remove something from a desk in a locked building..."). Then come medical and psychological evaluations, as well as background and lie-detector checks to test the applicants' loyalty. Altogether the clearance process can take up to four months—a long time to wait for a \$22,000-a-year entry position. That, along with the rigorous security screening, largely explains the agency's need for aggressive recruiting.

One person who will not be taking the test is Amy Carter—though she shows some of the energy and resourcefulness that the CIA is looking for. Carter, 19, arrived at the UMass protest late in the afternoon, after driving from the Brown campus in Providence, R.I. To join those who had occupied the building, she had to climb a back fire escape and be hoisted through a third-story window. After being arrested for obstructing lawful arrest, Carter was asked what her father would think. "He would not mind," she said. "He encourages me to speak up for what I believe is right."



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL GORDON—PICTURE GROUP

'Back to the future': Hoffman in familiar circumstances

GEORGE HACKETT with
PETER MCKILLIP in Amherst and
RICHARD SANDOZA in Washington